

## Cav Aviators Thwart Simultaneous Attacks for Two Baghdad Divisions

By Spc. Nathan Hoskins  
1st ACB Public Affairs

CAMP TAJI, Iraq - In order to exert effective battle command during the surge, two divisions control the fight near Baghdad: Multi-National Division - Baghdad, led by the 1st Cavalry Division and Multi-National Division - Center, led

by the 3rd Infantry Division.

But, this doesn't mean there are two aviation brigades covering these two expansive areas of operations.

Since the establishment of MND-C, the 1st Air Cavalry "Warrior" Brigade, 1st Cav. Div., has been supporting both MNDs to protect forces in and around the Iraqi capital and enable both

divisions' operations, said Lt. Col. Timothy DeVito, commander of 4th "Guns" Battalion, 227th Aviation Regiment, and acting brigade commander for the 1st ACB.

"We're currently integrating the 3rd ID's combat aviation brigade into MND-C's area of operations, and when that is complete, we will focus our sup-

port to (mainly) MND-B," said DeVito an Orlando, Fla., native.

Both attack battalions of the Warrior Brigade conducted near simultaneous engagements, stopping potential indirect fire and improvised explosive device attacks. But while one engagement was in MND-B, the other

See **Overtime** Page 3

## Iraqi Forces Prevent Suicide Vest Attack

2-82 Abn. Public Affairs

BAGHDAD - Iraqi Security Forces held off a female extremist from injuring and killing others when she detonated a concealed explosive device near the main entrance of the Iraqi National Police Academy in the Adhamiyah District June 5.

The woman approached the main gate at the academy and was ordered to stop by Iraqi Security Forces after an Iraqi soldier saw her adjusting a vest underneath her clothing.

The attacker continued to approach the gate and after another verbal warning, followed by a warning shot, she started running toward a crowd of national police recruits.

Iraqi Army troops opened fire on the woman, at which time she detonated an explosive device, killing herself. No Iraqi Security Forces or police recruits were injured in the attack.

The failed suicide attack occurred one day after a recruiting drive, where hundreds of Iraqi citizens volunteered for service at the training academy.



(Photo by Sgt. Rachel Ahner, 982nd Combat Camera (Airborne))

## Shot Over!

Soldiers from Battery B, 1st Battalion, 82nd Field Artillery Regiment fire a projectile which flies from the barrel of an M109A6 Paladin howitzer on Camp Taji, Iraq June 2. The troops performed the calibration fire to pinpoint and test the accuracy of rounds fired from the howitzer. Over the past seven months, the 1st Bn., 82nd Field Artillery Regt.'s hot gun battery has fired more than 2,000 rounds on the base camp in support of combat operations.

# Rashid Clearing Operations: More Arrests, Weapon Caches

By Maj. Kirk Luedeke  
4-1 Inf. Public Affairs

BAGHDAD - Multi-National Division - Baghdad Soldiers and Iraqi Security Forces continued clearing operations in the East Rashid security district of southern Baghdad June 1-4, detaining four suspected insurgents, destroying an improvised explosive device and finding 11 weapons caches. Two terrorists were also killed in a small arms engagement June 2.

The operation, known as Dragon Fire East/Arrowhead Strike 11, includes approximately 2,000 Coalition troops from the 4th Infantry Brigade Combat Team, 1st Infantry Division and 3rd Stryker Brigade Combat Team, 2nd Infantry Division. They are joined in the operation by Iraqi troops from the 7th Brigade, 2nd Iraqi National Police Division.

In three full days of clearing operations, one complete 60mm mortar system and two more 60mm mortar tubes were confiscated in East Rashid, along with numerous mortar rounds and other bomb-making materials. Several hundred rounds of small arms ammunition were seized at one cache site, as well as a sizeable number of desert uniforms, body armor and other accessories that could be used to outfit individuals to resemble



(Photo by Sgt. Tierney Nowland)

## In a Single Bound...

**A Soldier from Company A, 2nd Battalion, 3rd Infantry Regiment, 3rd Stryker Brigade Combat Team, 2nd Infantry Division jumps a gate to unlock it for his comrades in order to search a house in Baghdad's Rashid District June 2.**

Iraqi Security Forces.

Troops from the 1st Battalion, 28th Infantry Regiment "Black Lions" engaged and killed two extremists who engaged their patrol with small arms fire June 2. No ISF or Coalition troops were wounded in the attack.

Soldiers found and destroyed a completed IED, as well. Four suspected terrorists were also detained during the operation

and held for further questioning, raising the total number of suspects detained since operations began nine days ago to 15.

In one month since Operation Dragon Fire West and East/Arrowhead Strike 10, 11 kicked off, more than 170 distinct weapons caches have been confiscated, along with more than 100 suspects detained for questioning by ISF and Coalition Forces.

## Arabic Phrase of the Day

*taftiish*

**Defined:  
search**

## Iraq 3-Day Weather Report



Today

High: 108  
Low: 80



Tomorrow

High: 108  
Low: 78



Friday

High: 109  
Low: 78

**Commanding General:** Maj. Gen. Joseph F. Fil, Jr.  
**Public Affairs Officer:** Lt. Col. Scott Bleichwehl  
**Command Information Supervisor:** Master Sgt. Dave Larsen  
**NCOIC, Print Production:** Sgt. Michael Garrett  
**Editor:** Spc. Jeffrey Ledesma  
**Staff Writers:** Sgt. Nicole Kojetin, Spc. L.B. Edgar, Spc. Shea Butler, Pfc. Ben Gable and Pfc. William Hatton  
**Contributing Writers:** Maj. Kirk Luedeke, Sgt. Mike Pryor and Spc.

Nathan Hoskins  
**Contact the Daily Charge at VOIP 242-4093, DSN 318-847-2855 or e-mail [david.j.larsen@mnd-b.army.mil](mailto:david.j.larsen@mnd-b.army.mil).**

*The Daily Charge* is an authorized publication for members of the U.S. Army. Contents of the *Daily Charge* are not necessarily official views of, or endorsed by, the U.S. Government, Department of Defense, Department of the Army or the 1st Cavalry Division. All editorial content of the *Daily Charge* is prepared, edited, provided and approved by 1st Cavalry Division Public Affairs Office.



# Aviation Brigade Works Double Division Duty

## Overtime

From Page 1

was in MND-C, the Guns commander said.

On the night of June 2, the 4th "Guns" Battalion thwarted a group of enemy forces who were emplacing improvised explosive devices in MND-C's area of operations, said 1st Lt. Jennifer Owen, the assistant intelligence officer for 4-227th.

While conducting route reconnaissance, a team of two Apaches noticed suspicious activity in a road, said the Whitefish, Mont., native. Suspects were later observed digging a short distance up the road from a fire started in the middle of the road. An Apache team from 4-227th was called in to engage them, said Owen.

Upon returning to the area, the Big Gun team got clearance from the ground troops to fire on the burning road and any insurgents nearby, she said.

"They shot into the fire on the road and observed secondary explosions - indicating that there were either IEDs emplaced within range of that or they had it set aside so that once they (dug the hole) they could set it in," Owen said.

Both aircraft in the team then engaged the insurgents fleeing from the site. The enemy operation was defeated. Because of the 4-227th Guns, there were no losses to Coalition Forces.

Around the same time that 4-227th was engaging enemy forces emplacing IEDs, a team of Apaches from the 1st "Attack" Battalion, 227th Aviation Regiment, were called off an ongoing mission to respond to terrorists setting up rockets in a soccer field near Sadr City -

***"Our troopers know that our brothers on the ground are out there performing heroically across the area of operations and (1st ACB) is committed to doing anything and everything we can to protect these brave troopers..."***

**Lt. Col. Timothy DeVito, commander  
4th Bn., 227th Avn. Regt.**

MND-B's area of operation, said Las Vegas native Lt. Col. Christopher Walach, commander of "First Attack" and one of the Apache pilots flying the engagement.

The ground force, 2nd Brigade Combat Team, 2nd Infantry Division, found the terrorists setting up the rockets and called in attack aviation for support. Within minutes, Apaches were there assessing the situation, Walach said.

"This is probably the largest number of rockets I've seen set up, set to go off, since I've been here," he said.

Ten rockets were aimed at the International Zone with an unknown number of explosives still inside the terrorists' van parked nearby, Walach said.

The First Attack commander and his wingmen engaged the enemy forces, rockets and the vehicle, he said.

When the engagement began, some insurgents ran for shelter underneath the concrete bleachers of the stadium, said Tallahassee, Fla., native Chief Warrant Officer 4 Kevin Smith, the senior maintenance test pilot for 1-227th, and one of the crewmen during the engagement.

The crews engaged the enemy personnel. The ultimate outcome of their engagement was four insurgents killed and 10 rockets and one van destroyed, Walach said.

"We've spent hours and hours and hours looking for these guys," Smith

said. "This time, we finally got them, so it's a good feeling."

"This mission was probably the most integrated, ... combined armed operation I've seen in the past nine months to take out anti-Iraqi forces trying to do harm to the Iraqi government or the Iraqi people," said Walach. We couldn't do what we do without being fully integrated with the ground combat teams."

Both of these planned attacks were defeated by the 1st Air Cavalry Brigade in two completely different areas of operation, DeVito said.

"(That night) is a fitting example of how the brigade is sustaining its operations with lethal simultaneity in both MND areas of operations," he said.

"We are searching relentlessly to find our missing comrades and supporting this (troop) surge to defeat terrorists and anti-Iraqi forces while we, simultaneously, provide direct support to both MND (areas of operation) and integrate the 3rd CAB into our operations," said DeVito. "It's just part of our cavalry tradition and mindset. Our troopers know that our brothers on the ground are out there performing heroically across the area of operations and (1st ACB) is committed to doing anything and everything we can to protect these brave troopers and to enable their success as they operate."



(Photo by Spc. Nathan Hoskins, 1st ACB Public Affairs)

# Taking Charge:

## Iraqi Security Forces Out in Front on Joint Patrols in Suleikh

By Sgt. Mike Pryor  
2-82 Abn. Public Affairs

BAGHDAD - In the little conference room of the Suleikh Joint Security Station, 1st Sgt. Phong Tran was staring at a blank dry-erase board.

Tran and Iraqi police commander, Lt. Col. Ahmed Abdullah, were trying to plan an upcoming joint patrol, but Tran could tell Ahmed was getting lost.

Tran realized his military lingo was probably the cause of the problem.

"You've got to know your audience. You can't use military standard verbiage," said Tran, a Richmond, Va. native. "When you talk about task, purpose, and all that, it just gets lost in the translation."

Tran decided to simplify. He asked Ahmed - a veteran cop with nine years experience policing the area - what is the first thing you would do if you wanted to make this patrol work?

All the sudden it clicked. Ahmed took Tran's marker and began drawing formations and routes.

"It was like a seed planted in the ground: it just blossomed," Tran said.

Assessments of the progress of Iraqi Security Forces often focus on statistics like numbers of troops, tanks, or equipment. But the numbers don't answer the question: at the small unit level, are Iraqi commanders ready to take the lead?

At the Suleikh Joint Security Station in Baghdad's Adhamiya District, paratroopers from 2nd Battalion, 319th Airborne Field Artillery



(Photos by Sgt. Mike Pryor, 2-82 Abn. Public Affairs)

**(From left) Iraqi Army Capt. Ali Kamal, an interpreter, Iraqi police commander Lt. Col. Ahmed Abdullah, and Richmond, Va. native 1st Sgt. Phong Tran, of Battery A, 2nd Battalion, 319th Airborne Field Artillery Regiment, survey the possible site of a new traffic checkpoint while out on a joint Iraqi Army, police and U.S. patrol May 24.**

Regiment are finding that the answer is yes.

The paratroopers share the base with Iraqi police and troops from the Iraqi Army. The different units are in constant coordination, and several times a week, key leaders get together to plan joint patrols.

Recently, the Iraqis have been taking a much larger role in the planning and development stages of the missions, said 2nd Lt. Jesse Bowman, of Reynoldsburg, Ohio, a platoon leader with Battery A, 2-319th AFAR.

"We're trying to put them at the forefront as far as planning our joint patrols," Bowman said. "They're the ones thinking through all the details and contingencies."

"We just kind of say, 'Hey, this is what we want to do,' and then let them run with it, planning-wise," said Capt. James Peay, of Nashville, Tenn., Alpha Battery's commander.

That leeway doesn't stop at the planning stages; it also

extends to tactical control during missions. That is a crucial step to the transition process, even if it means surrendering some control on the battlefield, said Capt. Joe Miller, a military transition team liaison.

"(Some U.S.) commanders don't want to give up control on the ground. But every day we control the ground is a day that accomplishes nothing," Miller said.

During a joint patrol that left the JSS May 24, it was clear the Iraqis were in charge.

Before the patrol moved out, the soldiers, paratroopers, and policemen gathered under a shady tree to receive a convoy briefing from Ahmed, the police colonel. Ahmed, a tall man with wavy hair and rugged features, removed his ever-present mirrored shades to address the group.

"Take all commands from me," he said, before launching into a description of the route and the mission.

Alpha Battery squad

leader Sgt. Eduardo Rosa, of Springfield, Mass., had never received a briefing in Arabic before - or been on a patrol led by an Iraqi. He said he was impressed by Ahmed's performance.

"It's good that he was taking charge like that," Rosa said.

After some final checks, the convoy moved out. The purpose of the patrol was to assess Iraqi Army and police checkpoints along one of the major routes running past the JSS. Periodically, Ahmed, Bowman and Tran would dismount to check positions first hand and talk to the soldiers and policemen manning the checkpoints.

Afterward, back at the JSS, Rosa said it was good for people in the neighborhood to see U.S. and Iraqi forces out on joint patrols, especially with the Iraqis in the lead.

"It shows that we trust them, so they should, too," he said.

"The people feel safe when they see us working together and supporting each other," agreed Capt. Ali Kamal, a commander with the 3-2-6th Iraqi Army.

"We support each other," Ali said. "We are just like brothers."

Hours after the patrol was finished, Tran was in a thoughtful mood. He said he had heard a lot of hype about Iraqi forces taking the lead, but what he had seen on the ground was always disappointing. His time at the JSS, though, was starting to turn him into a believer.

"I think these guys can pull it off," he said. "If it works at the lowest level, that gives me hope that it can work on a larger scale."